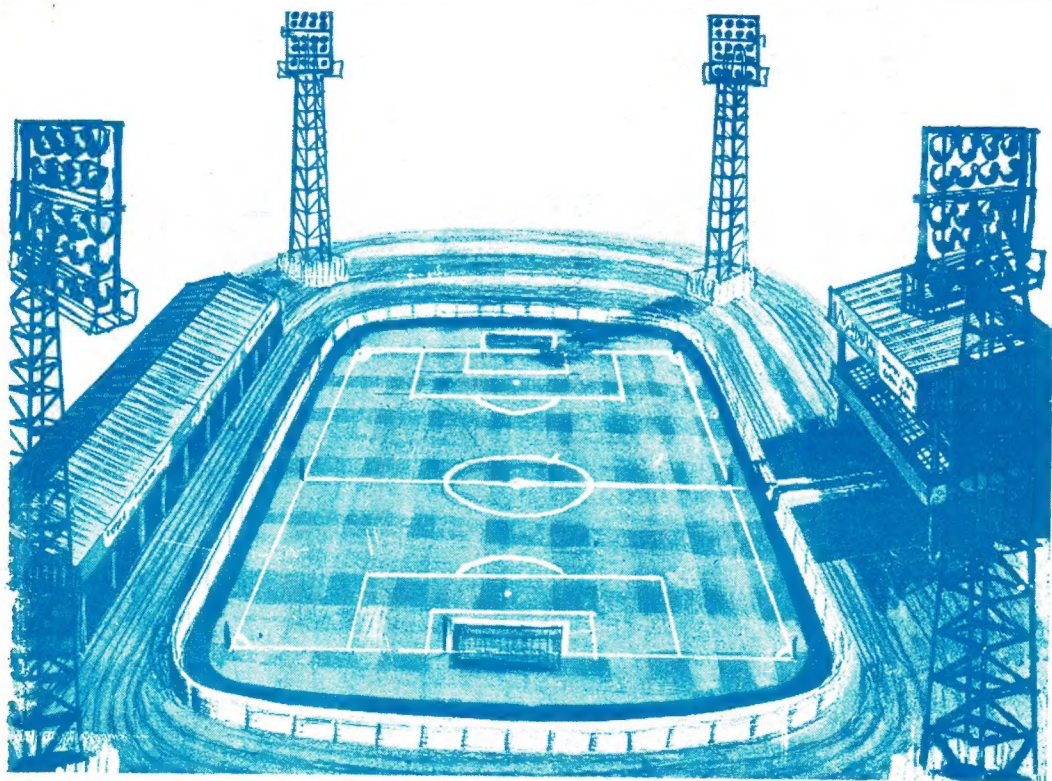


ATHLETIC

WIGAN

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME — 15p



FOOTBALL LEAGUE — DIVISION 4

v.

STOCKPORT COUNTY

SATURDAY, 17th MARCH, 1979 — Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

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Manager : I. McNEILL, Secretary : D. WELSBY.

Hon. Medical Officers : Dr. G. MENON, Dr. S. K. AHUJA.



OUR VISITORS

The Club was founded in 1883, as Heaton Norris Rovers, but became Stockport County in 1890. In 1895 they joined the Lancashire League, where they made sufficient progress to try to get into the Football League in 1899, without success; but in the following year Stockport County realized its ambition and, with Blackpool, was admitted to Division Two. For the next three seasons they were compelled to apply for re-election—finishing next to the bottom each time. Things were bad and so were the finances.

In 1902 a move from the Green Lane ground was made to their now Edgeley Park, and things began to improve; but in 1904 they failed to be re-elected and had to play in the

Midland League and the Lancashire Combination.

However, in 1905 the League place was regained and although they were obliged to go to the poll again in 1913, the Club struggled on through the war period. In 1921 they finished at the foot of Division Two and were allocated to the newly formed Division Three (North) of which they were champions in the first season. Consequently they returned to Div. Two. It was not until 1959 that it suffered relegation to Division Four.

Their ground, Edgeley Park, is a well appointed ground with a capacity of around 20,000. In 1950 it did however house a crowd of 27,833 in the F.A. Cup-tie with Liverpool.

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

FOOTBALL LEAGUE — DIVISION 4

WIGAN ATHLETIC v HEREFORD UNITED

WEDNESDAY, 28th MARCH, 1979 — Kick-off 7-30 p.m.

LANCASHIRE LEAGUE

Wigan Athletic Reserves v. Bolton Wanderers 'B'

SATURDAY, 24th MARCH, 1979 — Kick-off 2-30 p.m.

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FROM THE MANAGER'S DESK

Good afternoon.

Today we welcome Stockport County to Springfield Park, in what should be an extremely interesting match. I feel I know the stockport side as well as I know our own lads, as I have seen quite a lot of them this season. It has worked out that the side they play on Friday night, we usually meet a couple of weeks later. So it has been very handy indeed. The most recent game I saw was against Reading; and Stockport were most certainly unlucky not to take two points. Today's encounter should prove to be very tough indeed and we will need to be at our best to win this one.

Supporters/Team/Management Relationship

I would say 95% of our supporters are the best in the land. The 5% are probably good supporters who let their frustration get the better of them.

After we dropped a point against York, I received numerous letters telling me that I had made a grave error in team selection and that the boos were not for the players but for me. I would hope this was the case because the players of Wigan Athletic certainly do not warrant being booed or barracked, for no matter what happens for the rest of the season, they have done a tremendous job for the Club, and I am sure all our supporters would agree with that statement.

As regards the boos to myself. I can only say that after every indifferent result I receive quite a few letters telling me it was my fault. I have just worked it out that if it hadn't been for me we would have won every competitive game we have played this season.

The recent mistake for which I was responsible in many people's eyes, was not playing Neil Davids or one of our youngsters in place of Kevin Smart when Kevin was suspended. My reasons are thus: the youngsters are, in my opinion, not ready for the first team; as for Neil, I pose a question first Have any of the people nominating Neil for full-back ever seen him play full-back? I don't think so. No, it is my belief that Neil is principally a central defender, and a good one at that. He is unfortunate in the fact that Noel

Ward and Dave Fretwell have forged a partnership that has performed really well for us.

Many people feel Tommy Gore is a better full-back than midfield player. I know Tommy can perform equally well in both positions, and in fact against Wimbledon I made him our best player in that match. I also know we miss his forward probing when he is at full-back, but Mickey Moore has possibly played as many league games as a midfielder as he has as a striker, so to me it was an automatic move. If the criticism against me was that I was short of full-back cover then that would have been a legitimate grouse, but I can assure you we have been looking for cover.

Obviously we would hope to work to a situation when every position is covered adequately and it would be an automatic one change step-up, but believe me football does not work like that—and I don't suppose the best teams in the country ever reach that degree of perfection. Whenever did a young full-back appear for Liverpool?

I trust and hope our supporters and our staff can go towards success amicably and I can assure you any decision I take is with only one thought in mind and that is the success of WIGAN ATHLETIC. Remember the Wigan Town Motto—"PROGRESS WITH UNITY."

I pose one further question to the 5%... Do you honestly feel that booing and barracking improves the performance of anyone?

The support you have given us this season has been out of this world, and I thank you all for it. I would only ask you all, when things get a bit rough, to keep giving us your vocal support, which we feel has a big bearing on the result of matches.

Remember, it's the easiest thing in the world to support a winning side, but it's in rough times players need all the support they can get, and that is when really good fans show through.

Enjoy today's match.

I. M. McNEILL

It is most pleasing to see the great progress of the Supporters' Club. A very interested and hard working committee have improved the whole atmosphere of the club in the past few months. So much so, that the Directors decided to finance a new central heating system, decorating, and floor covering, and with a lot of voluntary labour the concert room is now looking very attractive. I am sure that present and future members will show their appreciation by attending more frequently.

Mr. Peter Woods, the present chairman, and his committee have certainly been responsible for this change for the better and it would be appreciated if, on match days, visitors would take care not to throw cigarette ends onto the floor coverings and endeavour to keep off the carpet with dirty feet.

Artistes entertain in the club on Saturday and Sunday and on Tuesday and Friday you can play Bingo, or spend a quiet evening in the

Lounge.

Our spectators will be very sorry to hear of the death of Mr. Norman Parsons. "Norry" as he was called played for the club in the thirties, although he did not have many first team games he captained the reserve team frequently for a few years. He was a local lad but in later life left the town, and at the time of his death he resided in Fleetwood.

If any spectators know of the whereabouts of any pre-war players I should be pleased to receive information. Obviously many will have passed on, but there must still be quite a number alive and kicking.

When we gained admission to the Football League we received congratulatory messages from Jack Lindsay, full-back in the team that played Newcastle in 1954, and Sid Tuffnell who was the No. 6 way back in the 1930's. We also had a telegram from Cyril Tolley who was our full-back in 1949 and onwards.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE — DIVISION IV

(up to and including 10th March, 1979)

	Home							Away							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Reading	31	13	2	0	36	7	4	7	5	17	22	43			
Aldershot	31	11	5	1	30	11	4	7	3	18	17	42			
Wimbledon	28	11	2	1	28	15	6	5	3	24	17	41			
Grimsby	30	11	3	2	39	16	6	2	6	17	15	39			
Portsmouth	30	11	3	2	27	8	5	2	7	21	24	37			
Barnsley	28	8	3	2	28	14	5	7	3	17	12	36			
WIGAN ATHLETIC	30	10	2	4	25	16	5	4	5	14	14	36			
Newport	31	7	4	5	25	23	5	4	6	18	18	32			
Stockport	30	10	3	5	27	16	1	5	6	18	25	30			
Bournemouth	31	8	4	5	28	15	2	5	7	7	11	29			
Hereford	31	7	6	2	21	13	3	3	10	14	23	29			
Torquay	30	9	3	4	27	20	3	2	9	12	24	29			
Bradford City	29	6	3	4	20	16	6	2	8	19	30	29			
Doncaster	32	7	4	6	19	17	4	3	8	18	31	29			
Port Vale	29	5	6	4	21	20	5	2	7	21	25	28			
Hartlepool	29	5	8	2	25	19	3	4	7	11	24	28			
York City	27	4	4	4	13	14	6	2	7	14	22	26			
Huddersfield	29	7	5	2	18	9	2	2	11	13	24	25			
Scunthorpe	27	7	1	5	20	20	2	6	6	12	17	25			
Darlington	29	4	5	5	15	14	3	3	9	17	31	22			
Crewe	31	3	5	6	16	23	2	7	8	16	34	22			
Northampton	28	6	4	4	26	21	1	3	10	13	31	21			
Rochdale	26	2	4	5	8	15	2	4	9	13	26	16			
Halifax Town	29	2	4	6	7	14	1	12	14	12	32	12			

PEN PICTURES OF STOCKPORT COUNTY A.F.C.

DAVID LAWSON (Goalkeeper)

ANDY THORPE (Defender)

Born Stockport. Made his debut last season away to Hartlepool in early April and ended the term playing in four out of the last five matches. Signed full-time pro during 1978 after being an apprentice. The only member of the present first team pool who is playing for his home town club. Much is expected of him this season.

JOHN RUTTER (Defender)

Born Warrington. John has remained an ever present in the side for the past two seasons, since signing from Exeter City. Made his debut for County in August '76, and has also had spells with Wolves and Bournemouth. Dependable ever reliable back, another of the quiet men in the squad. Often enjoys to go forward and complement his forwards, scoring 4 goals last term, 3 of which were from outside the box.

PAUL EDWARDS (Midfield)

TERRY PARK (Midfield)

Born Liverpool. The comedian of the side, but only off the field. Tall and a very skilful player who began his career as an apprentice with Wolves, joining County in July '76. Last season made 43 first team appearances scoring four times. His ability was also noted by many clubs and in mid-season a move to North American side Philadelphia 'Fury' was a distinct possibility. Much is expected of him this term.

KEN FOGARTY (Midfield)

Born Stretford. The longest present serving player at Edgeley Park having signed in July 1970. Has now played 234 League games for the Club and last term made 36 League appearances. A superb defender, who is perhaps the most underrated player in the Fourth Division. Has been a fine acquisition for the Club during the past eight years.

EDDIE PRUDHAM (Striker)

Born Gateshead. Signed pro forms as a 17 year old with Sheffield Wednesday,

where he spent five seasons. Arrived at Edgeley Park after spells with Carlisle Utd, Partick Thistle (on loan) and Workington (on loan), in July 1977. Suffered injury last term but still managed to finish as the Club's top scorer with 13 goals. A fine header of the ball, and a very difficult man for defenders to mark.

MIKE SUMMERBEE (Player Manager)

Born Preston. Former England International who gained 8 caps for his country. Signed in September of last season after a loan period from Blackpool A superb passer of a ball and one of the League's best readers of a game, more famously known as part of the great Man. City side where he gained all the major honours. Has now played over 650 League games, 42 of which were for County last term, scoring four goals, all of them away from home.

LES BRADD (Striker)

Born Buxton. Close season signing from Notts County, joining the Club in July for a record equalling transfer fee of £15,000. During his time at Meadow Lane he made 389 League appearances scoring 125 goals which is a record for the Notts club. He scored both the goals in the Notts County 2-0 F.L. Cup win over Everton during the 1975-76 season after knocking out Sunderland and Leeds in earlier rounds. Had also a short three match spell at the beginning of his career with Rotherham United.

GEORGE ARMSTRONG (Striker)

STUART LEE (Forward)

Born Manchester. Former Bolton Wanderers player who left Burnden Park in November 1975 after 85 appearances for the senior side, scoring 20 goals. Joined Wrexham where he made 58 outings for the Welsh side, scoring 12 goals. Netted the Wrexham goal in the 1975-76 European Cup Winners Cup competition against the eventual winners Anderlecht in a 1-1 draw at the Racecourse Ground. Signed for County during the close season on a free transfer.

PHIL HENSON

PEN PICTURES OF STOCKPORT COUNTY A.F.C.

NEW AND REBUILT

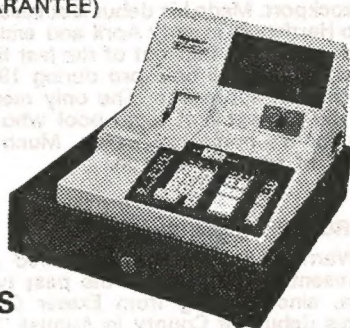
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OPINION

by Harold Ashurst



6

Although the result of Wednesday night's game with Torquay is not known at the time of writing these notes, the way Latics performed in their last match at Northampton kept the promotion fires burning.

I have been, and still am in fact, loathe to talk about promotion, for I think it is far too early with fifteen matches to go. But not only that, Latics have not only to win a lot of their remaining games — and there are some tough ones — but they have to rely on the teams above them dropping points.

In my opinion though, there is only one team a promotion certainty at the moment—Wimbledon. The other three clubs will no doubt come from

Reading, Aldershot, Barnsley, Portsmouth and Latics.

Latics' run of results since their bad start to the season has masked what the club set out to do in their first season in the League and that's consolidate.

Now consolidation seems to have gone to the wind as the team battles to get among the top four. If they make it this will be a remarkable feat. But if they don't, the season won't have been a let down in any way at all.

To finish in the top half will be a fine achievement. However, we will have to wait and see. The season is far from over.

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Today we welcome to Springfield Park our good friends and neighbours Stockport County. It is quite possible Mr. McNeill and myself have seen almost as many home games at Edgeley Park as at Springfield Park this season. With County playing all their home games on Friday night our manager has had a wonderful opportunity of watching all other 4th Division sides when they have been to Stockport.

We are very grateful to their Chairman, Mr. F. Pye and his board of directors for the hospitality we are shown on a visit to their ground, and I am sure they will find our hospitality just as good, apart from them going away with two points, as we did at Stockport a few months ago.

It is most satisfying to see we are still in the promotion race in the middle of March, and our convincing win at Northampton last Saturday certainly compensated for the loss of two points in our last two home games. Although the York City game was "one of those games" where a point was lost, the game with Barnsley was a "cracker" and we were most unlucky to concede a penalty in the dying minutes of the game.

The postponement of games since New Year's day has made life very hard and frustrating for players, management and spectators, and our unnecessary journey to Rochdale last Tuesday must have angered many travelling spectators. No referee will, however, cancel prematurely any game for rain, as within an hour of kick-off the rain could stop and the pitch be cleared of water. Unfortunately this did not happen in Rochdale last week, the rain was still a downpour at kick-off time and it would have been impossible to play on such a waterlogged pitch. No blame can be attached to anyone for the postponement.

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FOOTBALL LEAGUE — DIVISION 4

SATURDAY, 17th MARCH, 1979 — Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

LINE-UP

Wigan Athletic		Stockport County
1 John Brown	Referee : Mr. J. E. BRAY (Leicester)	1 David Lawson
2 Kevin Smart	Linesmen : Mr. F. Phipps (Wrexham) Red Flag	2 Andy Thorpe
3 Joe Hinnigan	Mr. D. Scott (Burnley) Yellow Flag	3 John Rutter
4 Tommy Gore		4 Paul Edwards
5 Noel Ward		5 Terry Park
6 Dave Fretwell		6 Ken Fogarty
7 Frank Corrigan	FOR YOUR RECORD	7 Eddie Prudham
8 Jeff Wright	Result :	8 Mike Summerbee
9 Derek Brownbill	Attendance :	9 Les Bradd
10 Mickey Moore	Scorers :	10 Geo. Armstrong
11 Ian Purdie		11 Stuart Lee
12 Alan Crompton		12 Phil Henson

TODAY'S REFEREE

JEFF E. BRAY (Hinckley, Leicester)

Began refereeing in local leagues in 1965. Progressed through the Football Combination to the Football League list in 1975. Eleven years secretary of local football league. Vice-chairman of local referees' association.

He refereed the 2nd-leg of the F.A. Vase Semi-final in 1977-78. Married with two children and is a Unit Manager with a dry cleaning firm. His spare time is spent recruiting new referees and promoting local football.

FOCUS ON JOHN BROWN

<i>Full Name :</i>	John Christopher Brown.
<i>Birthplace :</i>	Bradford.
<i>Birthdate :</i>	30th December, 1948.
<i>Height :</i>	6ft. 0ins.
<i>Weight :</i>	13 st. 2 lbs.
<i>Previous Clubs :</i>	Preston, Stockport, Leicester.
<i>Married :</i>	Yes.
<i>Children :</i>	Phillip (10), Claire (5).
<i>Car :</i>	Fiat 127.
<i>Favourite player :</i>	Kevin Keegan.
<i>Favourite other team :</i>	Dog & Gunn.
<i>Most difficult opponent :</i>	Any Striker.
<i>Most memorable match :</i>	Debut : v. Bolton, for Preston.
<i>Biggest thrill :</i>	Same game.
<i>Biggest disappointment :</i>	Being released by Preston.
<i>Best country visited :</i>	Denmark.
<i>Favourite food :</i>	Steak and Chips.
<i>Miscellaneous likes :</i>	Records/Reading.
<i>Miscellaneous dislikes :</i>	Long journeys.
<i>Favourite TV shows :</i>	Kenny Everet.
<i>Favourite singers :</i>	Joan Armatrading.
<i>Favourite actors :</i>	Clint Eastwood.
<i>Best friend:</i>	Many.
<i>Biggest influence on career :</i>	George Barge (Preston)
<i>Biggest drag in soccer :</i>	Being injured.
<i>International honours :</i>	FA XI v. Universities.
<i>Personal ambition :</i>	To make money.
<i>Professional ambition :</i>	Promotion.
<i>If not in football, what would you like to be :</i>	Joiner.
<i>Which person in the world would you most like to meet :</i>	Mohammed Ali.

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LANCASHIRE FOOTBALL LEAGUE (DIVISION 1)

Wigan Athletic Reserves

1978

August—	F-A
18—Blackpool 'A'H	2-1
25—Southport Res.H	1-1
September—	
2—Everton 'A'A	2-1
9—Chester 'A'H	1-3
15—Tranmere R. Res.A	0-0
16—	
23—Bradford City Res.H	5-0
30—Liverpool 'A'A	1-2
October—	
7—Rochdale Res.H	2-2
14—Rochdale Res.A	0-1
21—Carlisle Utd. Res.H	2-0
27—Stockport County 'A'A	8-0
November—	
11—Tranmere R. Res.H	2-2
18—Crewe Alex 'A'A	3-3
25—Manchester City 'A'A	2-1
December—	
2—Blackpool 'A'H	
9—Port Vale Res.H	3-1
13—Macclesfield T. Res.H	5-1
16—Chester 'A'A	
26—	
30—Morecambe Res.A	5-0

1979

January—	F-A
1—Oldham Ath. Res.H	1-3
6—Morecambe Res.H	3-1
13—Port Vale Res.A	
20—Manchester City 'A'H	
27—Macclesfield T. Res.A	
February—	
3—Bradford City Res.A	
10—Crewe Alex Res.H	5-0
17—Manchester Utd. 'A'A	2-2
24—Oldham Ath. Res.A	1-4
March—	
3—Carlisle Res.A	1-3
8—Stockport County 'A'H	4-2
17—Bolton Wanderers 'B'A	
24—Bolton Wanderers 'B'H	
31—Wrexham Res.A	
April—	
7—Manchester Utd. 'A'H	
13—Southport Res.A (Fri.)	
15—Wrexham Res.H	
16—	
21—Liverpool 'A'H	
28—	
May—	
5—Everton 'A'H	

LANCASHIRE LEAGUE — DIVISION ONE

Leading Positions—

(up to and including 28th February 1979)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Port Vale Reserves	20	15	3	2	48	15	33
Manchester United Reserves	21	14	4	3	53	17	32
Liverpool 'A'	20	13	3	4	51	30	29
Oldham Athletic Reserves	19	13	2	4	44	24	28
Wigan Athletic Reserves	22	10	6	6	53	33	26
Chester 'A'	17	9	5	3	31	20	23
Tranmere Rovers Reserves	18	8	6	4	36	26	22
Manchester City 'A'	18	9	4	5	29	19	22

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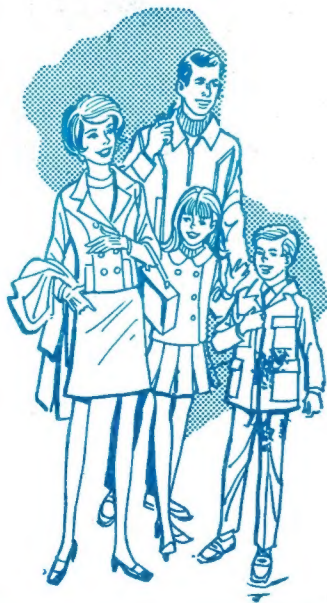
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